DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 203 964 JC 810 436

TITLE Demographic Analysis of the Students in the Allied Health Division: 1976-80.
INSTITUTION Compton Community Coll., Calif.
PUB DATE [81]
NOTE 27p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Age; *Allied Health Occupations Education; Associate Degrees; Community Colleges; Enrollment; Females; High School Graduates; Nurses Aides; Nursing Education; Physicians Assistants; Practical Nursing; Sex; *Student Attrition; *Student Characteristics; Two Year Colleges; *Two Year College Students
IDENTIFIERS Respiratory Therapists

ABSTRACT

A demographic profile is presented of the 710 students who were enrolled in Compton Community College's Allied Health Division during the five-year period from 1976 through 1980. After reviewing the limitations of the study, the report looks at annual and total enrollments in six program areas: associate degree nursing, vocational nursing, respiratory therapy, nurse's aide, and physician's assistant. Next, separate demographic analyses are presented for each program. After yearly enrollment figures are presented, the following student characteristics are examined: sex, age, place of residence, high school attended, and high school graduation status. Finally, each program report looks at the attrition rate experienced between Fall and Spring semesters. Data are included only for the first year of the nurse's aide program (1980) and for the last year of the physician's assistant program (1976). Selected findings include the following: (1) of the 710 students enrolled in the Division during the study period, 563 were enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing and Vocational Nursing programs; (2) enrollment in the Division declined from a high of 155 new enrollees in 1979 to a low of 128 enrollees in 1980; (3) serious attrition problems were experienced in the Associate Degree Nursing, Vocational Nursing, and Respiratory Therapy programs, while attrition did not seem to be a problem in the Radiologic Technology Program. (JP)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED203964

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS IN THE ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION: 1976-1980.

Compton Community College
Compton, California

JC 810 436

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Ronald D. Chatman

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☒ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENTS IN THE ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION: 1976-80

Following is a demographic analysis of students enrolled in the various programs of the Allied Health Division at Compton Community College over the last five years. These are six in number: Associate Degree, Nursing, Vocational Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Radiological Technology, Physician's Assistant (dropped from the curriculum after 1976), and Nurse's Aide (instituted in 1980).

Preliminary data includes a pie-chart representation (by percentage) of each program as a part of the overall Allied Health curriculum over the last five years, as well as a table showing the enrollment by program and totals for each of the five years in question.

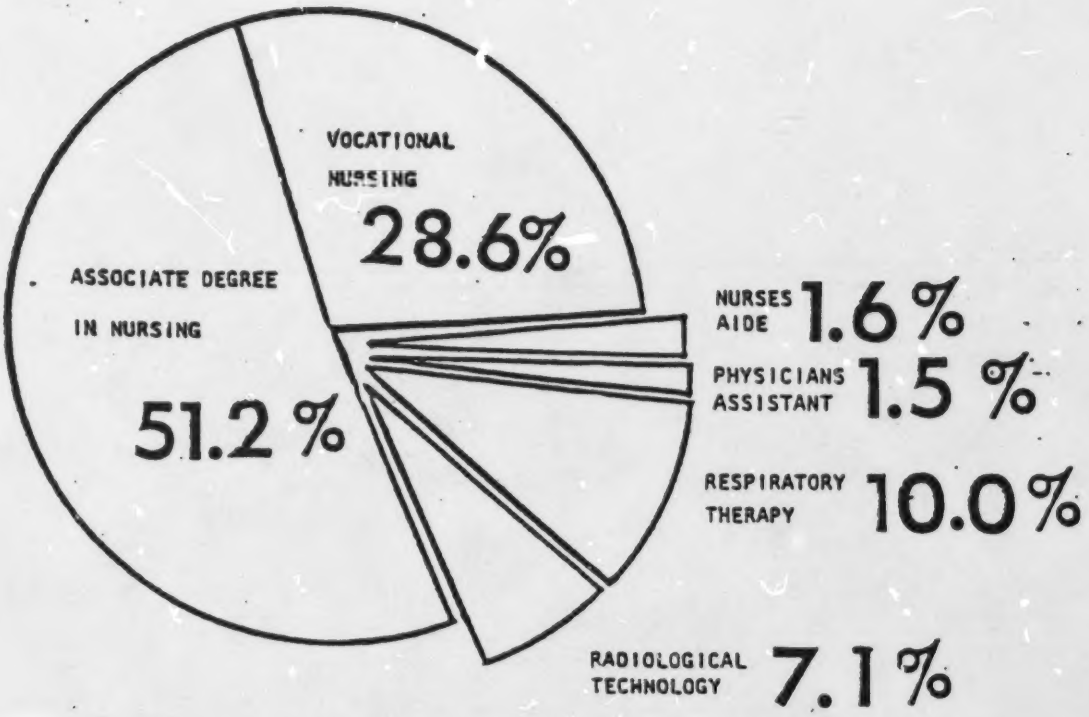
Data which follows is on a program by program basis and includes the following information: enrollment by years, gender and age distribution, place of residence, high school attended, and the number of high school graduates (all over the five year period).

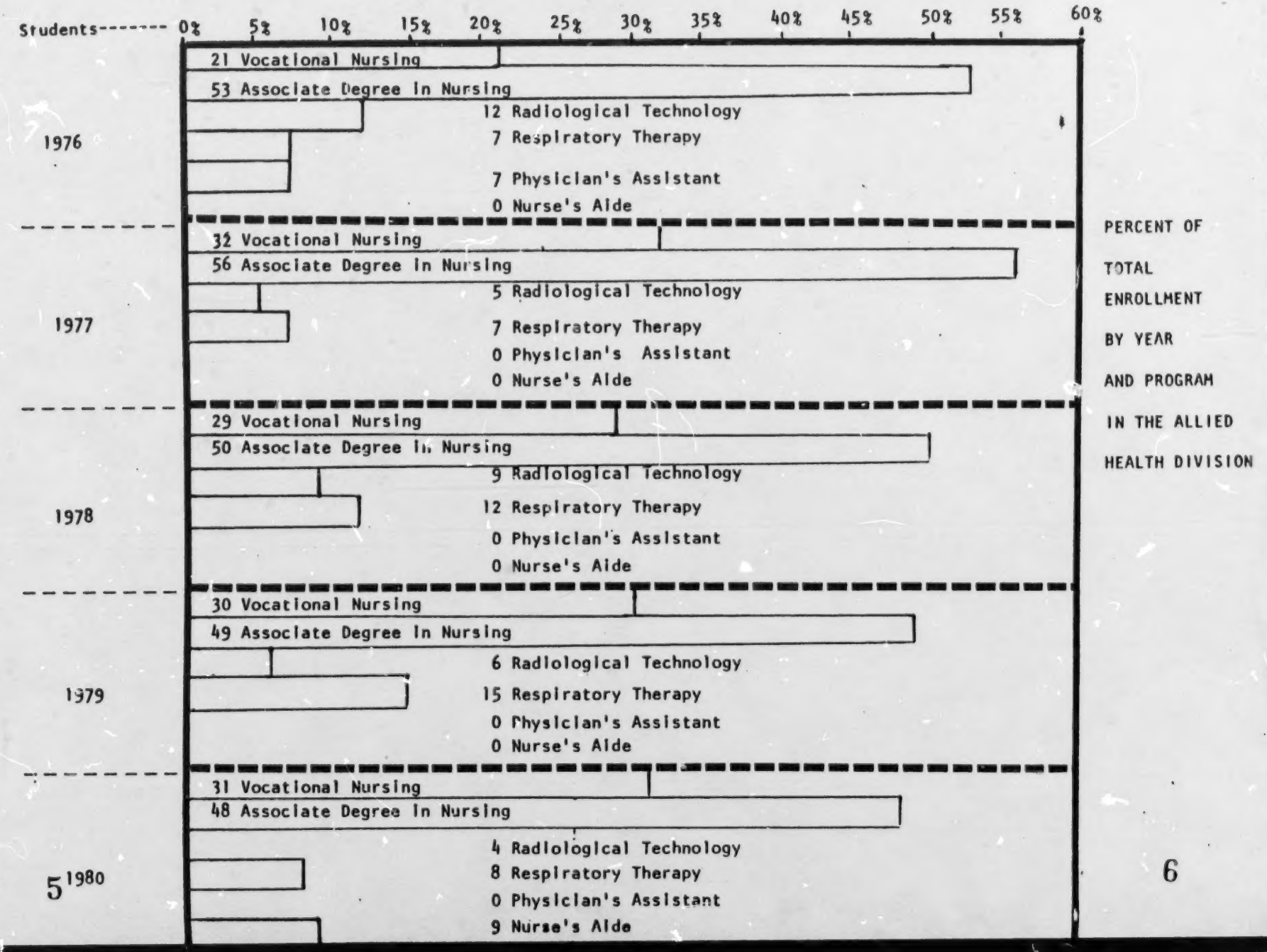
Attrition is also dealt with tangentially, by a graph for each program showing the number of students who both enrolled in the Fall semester of a given year and continued during the Spring semester. It should be pointed out that initial enrollment in the programs of the Allied Health Division can be effected only during the Fall.

It might also be useful to point out what this study does not purport to cover. First, no attempt has been made to trace the total number of semesters during which a given student may have attended the institution. Figures thus reflect only the number of enrollees in a given program per year, and not the total number of attendees in a given curriculum. By the same token, some individuals may be counted twice if they enrolled in a program during a given year, subsequently dropped out, and then reenrolled at a later period of time. Second, data varies by category depending upon the degree of information which was retrievable (e.g., gender might be available for fifty students in a given program while place of residence might be available for only twenty-five). Third, the data in this report does not include the small group of individuals known as LVNs in Advanced Standing, who are atypical and who are admitted for purposes of continuing education or advancement credit.

Future phases of this study will include an analysis of the numbers of graduates, performance rates on State exams, and the job placements which have been attained.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS 1976 - 1980 ENROLLED IN THE ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION




Students-------
0%
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
30%
35%
40%
45%
50%
55%
60%
1976
21 Vocational Nursing
53 Associate Degree in Nursing
12 Radiological Technology
7 Respiratory Therapy
7 Physician's Assistant
0 Nurse's Aide
1977
32 Vocational Nursing
56 Associate Degree in Nursing
5 Radiological Technology
7 Respiratory Therapy
0 Physician's Assistant
0 Nurse's Aide
1978
29 Vocational Nursing
50 Associate Degree in Nursing
9 Radiological Technology
12 Respiratory Therapy
0 Physician's Assistant
0 Nurse's Aide
1979
30 Vocational Nursing
49 Associate Degree in Nursing
6 Radiological Technology
15 Respiratory Therapy
0 Physician's Assistant
0 Nurse's Aide
1980
31 Vocational Nursing
48 Associate Degree in Nursing
4 Radiological Technology
8 Respiratory Therapy
0 Physician's Assistant
9 Nurse's Aide
PERCENT OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY YEAR AND PROGRAM IN THE ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION

ENROLLMENT TOTALS IN THE ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION BY YEAR AND PROGRAM

		VN	ADN	RADT	REPT	PA	NA	TOTAL
	1980	40	61	5	10	0	12	128
	1979	47	76	9	23	0	0	155
	1978	44	77	14	18	0	0	153
	1977	43	77	7	10	0	0	137
	1976	29	72	16	10	10	0	137
TOTALS		203	363	51	71	10	12	710

VN = Vocational Nursing
ADN = Associate Degree Nursing
RADT = Radiological Technology
REPT = Respiratory Therapy
PA = Physician's Assistant
NA = Nurse's Aide

GENERAL DATA ON THE PROGRAMS OF THE
ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION: 1976-80

As the preceeding pie-chart and graph demonstrate, the two major Allied Health programs at Compton Community College over the last five years have been the Associate Degree in Nursing and the Vocational Nursing programs. Representing 51.2% and 28.6% of all Allied Health enrollment during the period of 1976-80, these two programs--in terms of numbers of participants--dwarf both the Respiratory Therapy and Radiological Technology programs, representing 10% and 7.1% of all enrollment respectively. Bringing up the rear are the now extinct Physician's Assistant program, whose 1976 enrollment represents 1.5% of all Allied Health enrollment, and the Nurse's Aide program, newly instituted, which represents 1.6% of all Allied Health enrollment.

The preceeding table brings out the relative significance of the Division's constituent programs even more clearly. Of seven hundred and ten students enrolled in the six Allied Health programs from 1976 to 1980, some five hundred and sixty-three were enrolled in the Associate Degree in Nursing and Vocational Nursing programs (two hundred and three in the ADN and three hundred and sixty-three in the VN). In comparison, the Respiratory Therapy program has enrolled seventy-one students, while the Radiological Technology program has enrolled only fifty-one.

It is also quite clear that overall enrollment in the Allied Health Division has taken a downward turn during the last year. From an enrollment high of one hundred and fifty-five new enrollees in the Division's programs in 1978, enrollment declined this year to one hundred and twenty-eight. While comparable to enrollment figures for 1977 and 1976, this 1980 total still represents a sharp downturn. It must be stressed, however, that the reason for this decline in numbers is almost assuredly not due to any particular situation prevailing in the District but is, rather, symptomatic of a national trend of declining allied health enrollment figures, a decline whose proportions is as great or greater than that which has occurred at our institution.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING PROGRAM

The Associate Degree in Nursing program has experienced consistenly high enrollments throughout the last five years,enrolling three hundred and sixty-three individuals, as follows:

Year	Number
1980	61
1979	76
1978	77
1977	77
1976	72

Gender

As is traditional with nursing programs throughout the nation, enrollment in the ADN program at Compton Community College is overwhelmingly female. In fact, the number of females as compared to males in the last five years is startling: three hundred and thirty-three females, as opposed to only twenty-seven males.

Age Distribution

The ADN program is remarkable in that it includes students, in significant numbers, at all age levels imaginable. A close analysis indicates that more enrollees are to be found between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five than in any other comparable five year period. However, the numbers of enrollees who are younger, slightly older, or much more mature are also great. By decades, the twenty to thirty year old group is the largest in size.

Age	Number
17-20	50
21-25	92
26-30	48
31-35	63
36-40	34
41-45	16
46+	24

The high number of enrollees aged forty and above probably reflects the fact that many students are already in the Allied Health field (as VNS or LVNS)and are seeking career advancement. Among the ADN students enrolled in the last five years have been individuals aged fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-four, fifty-seven, and fifty-eight. Age is thus clearly no impediment to the successful pursuit of an advanced career in nursing.

Place of Residence

As is to be expected with any group of over three hundred individuals, a multiplicity of residences abound for the enrollees in the ADN program over the course of the last five years. The largest number of student residences by far are to be found in the City of Compton, a statistic which may reflect two factors. First, it may be that large numbers of Comptonites have availed themselves of the services of the College because the College has succeeded in reaching them and making them aware of the institution's programs. Second, it is possible that this statistic has been padded by many students from outside the District who have employed fraudelent "Compton" addresses to circumvent the District's residency requirements. In addition to the preponderance of Compton addresses, significant numbers of enrollees come from Lynwood and Los Angeles (Willowbrook-Enterprise). For Paramount and Carson, however,

the number of enrollees is miniscule.

Places of Residence	Number
Bellflower	1
Carson	8
Compton	239
Downey	1
Huntington Beach	1
Inglewood	3
Long Beach	2
Los Angeles	21
Lynwood	43
Paramount	5
South Gate	1

High Schools Attended

The high schools attended by ADN enrollees reflect a variety of backgrounds. A significant number of individuals are graduates of high schools in the District, while others hail from high schools nearby (e.g., Banning, Narbonne, Carson, Gardena, etc). Another large group is the product of the Los Angeles Unified School District, while still another received its diplomas either out of state or overseas. Finally, a small group received its secondary education elsewhere in California.

The statistics borne by the Los Angeles Unified and other California graduates reflect a considerable in-migration into the District in the last two decades, a migration which reached considerable proportions and which was far greater than the normal in-state migratory pattern. Many of these new residents came from areas served by the Los Angeles Unified School District, hence the large number of enrollees in this group. Large numbers of out of state and overseas high school graduates, however, are more a reflection of the generally high in-migration into California as a whole:

High Schools Attended	Number
Banning	5
Carson	3
Centennial	18
Chester Adult	2
Compton	54
Dominguez	18
Gardena	5
Inglewood	1
Lynwood	10
Lynwood Academy	3
Morningside	1
Narbonne	3
Paramount	2
Pius X	2
Regina Caeli	10
San Pedro	1
South Gate	3
Tubman	1
Warren	1
Wilson	1
Los Angeles Unified	84
Other California	16
Out of State	71
Overseas	7

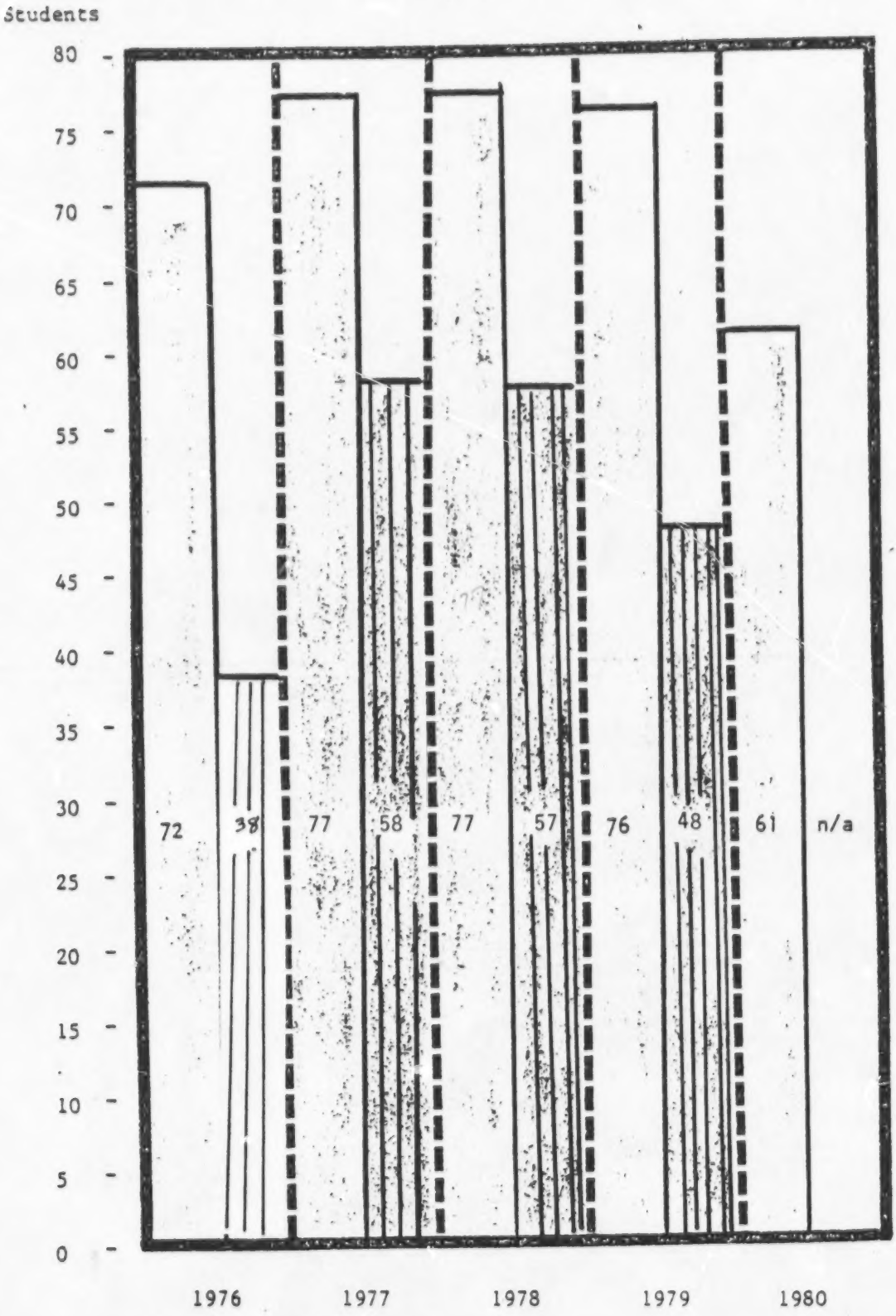
High School Graduates

As might be expected of students in a highly complex professional curriculum, the vast majority of ADN enrollees over the last five years are high school graduates. However, a small number of enrollees did not receive their diplomas. Data which is avaialable indicates three hundred and thirteen enrollees who had graduated and thirteen who had not. No common denominator --such as age or gender--can be posited as the predominant factor resulting in non-receipt of diplomas, as no consistent pattern can be detected. In the main, then, high school graduation seems to be a predominant--though not exclusive--characteristic of individuals pursing an Associate Degree in Nursing.

Attrition

Perhaps reflecting the difficulty of the curriculum (and corresponding to national trends), and perhaps the changing economic situation as well, the Associate Degree in Nursing Program has experienced some rather serious attrition problems over the course of the last five years. As reflected by the graph on the following page, this problem has been greatest in 1979 and 1976, when the program has lost twenty-eight and thirty-four enrollees respectively. It has also, however, been serious in 1977 and 1978, when ninteen and twenty enrollees respectively failed to continue during the Spring semester of their enrollment year.

Attrition in the ADN Program is thus a problem of sufficient scope to warrant close examination and remediation, a task which the Nursing Department has undertaken with great seriousness. Since the problem seems to be increasing rather than decreasing the urgency of this matter is all the greater.


Students
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
72
38
77
58
77
57
76
48
61
n/a
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING
Fall Enrollees
Spring Continuing Students

VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

The Vocational Nursing Program has experienced consistent enrollments throughout the last five years, enrolling two hundred and three individuals, as follows:

Year	Number
1980	40
1979	47
1978	44
1977	43
1976	29

Gender

Again, as is traditional with nursing programs, enrollment in the Vocational Nursing Program at Compton Community College is overwhelmingly female. Data indicates that one hundred and eighty-three females have undertaken the VN curriculum, as opposed to only five males since 1976. The lower incidence of males in the VN curriculum as opposed to the ADN curriculum is probably due to the lower perceived status and the actual lower pay of the Vocational Nursing profession.

Age Distribution

Like the ADN Program, the Vocational Nursing Program includes enrollees, in significant numbers, at all age levels. Also like the ADN Program, the highest incidence of enrollees occurs in the group aged twenty-one to twenty-five, and the decade with the greatest number of students is that between twenty and thirty. However, consistently significant groups of enrollees are to be found who are younger and considerably older as well

Age	Number
17-20	15
21-25	43
26-30	41
31-35	23
36-40	23
41-45	12
46+	17

A similar parallel between the Vocational and Associate Degree in Nursing Programs can be seen in the high number of mature participants, aged forty and above. The Vocational Nursing Program has enrolled participants since 1976 who have been aged fifty, fifty-one, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, sixty, and even sixty-five years of age! As the Vocational Nursing curriculum is less complex than the Associate Degree curriculum it seems to attract individuals who are more mature, as well as the normal complement of enrollees.

Place of Residence

Statistics on the residences of Vocational Nursing students since 1976 show a great similarity to those for enrollees in the Associate Degree program, and no doubt for the same demographic reasons. Once again the largest number of residences by far are to be found in Compton. Also, a fair number of enrollees apparently have resided in Lynwood and Los Angeles (Willowbrook-Enterprise), but very few in either Paramount or Carson.

Place of Residence	Number
Carson	6
Compton	135
Gardena	1
Lakewood	1
Long Beach	3
Los Angeles	13
Lynwood	23
Paramount	7

High Schools Attended

Once again, statistics on the high schools attended by Vocational Nursing students at Compton Community College are similar to those which prevail for Associate Degree Nursing students, and again no doubt for the same demographic reasons. A significant number of students graduated from schools in the District, some are the products of local, nearby Districts, a considerable group matriculated in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and large numbers attended high school in other parts of the state, other states, and even other countries.

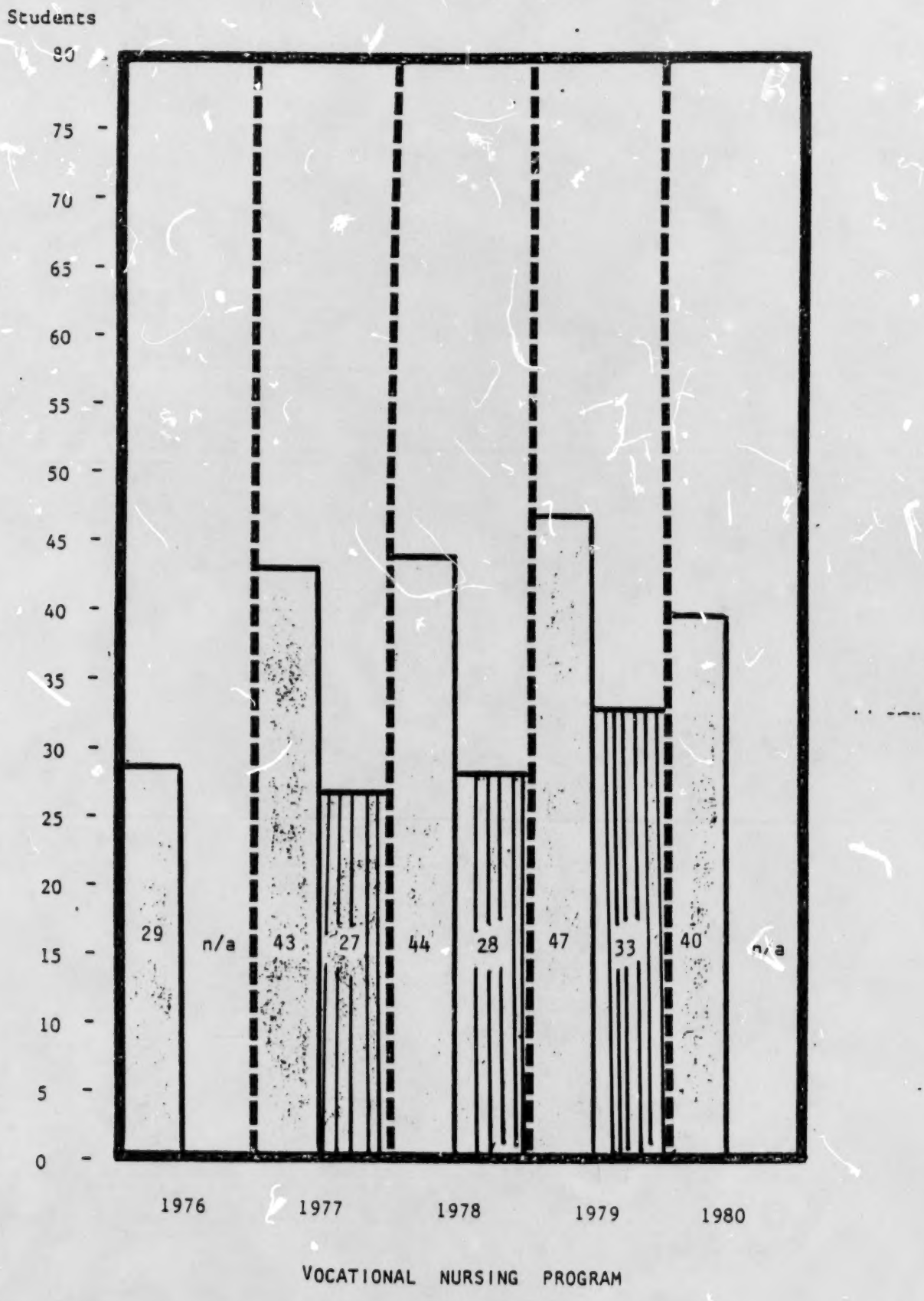
High Schools Attended	Number
Banning	3
Carson	4
Centennial	4
Chester	6
Compton	23
Dominguez	10
Gardena	2
Lynwood	3
Lynwood Academy	1
Narbonne	1
Paramount	2
Pius X	1
South Gate	5
Tubman	3
Los Angeles Unified	36
Other California	16
Out of State	43
Overseas	2

High School Graduates

The Vocational Nursing Program has a higher representation of non-graduates from high school than that of any other Allied Health program on campus. Yet, even in the Vocational Nursing program, this group is rather insignificant. Data available indicates that one hundred and thirty-three enrollees graduated from high school, while only twenty did not. As an entry level career in the nursing field, the Vocational Nursing Program may not deter non-graduates as much as other Allied Health programs. Once again, no hypothesis can be put forth to explain why non-graduates did not finish high school, as no consistent pattern emerges from a demographic analysis by age, gender, or high school attended.

Attrition

The Vocational Nursing Program has experienced problems with attrition over the course of the last five years. While data from 1976 is incomplete and thus unreliable, available data--as reflected in the graph on the following page--indicates that between the Fall and Spring semesters of 1977, 1978, and 1979 the program lost sixteen, sixteen, and fourteen students respectively. Although the problem of attrition does not seem to be increasing in the Vocational Nursing Program, it is still serious, and increasing attention is being paid to it by the staff of the Nursing Department. It should also be added once again that such attrition is not unique to the Compton Community College District but is reflective of a national trend in declining allied health enrollments through attrition.


Students
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
29
n/a
43
27
44
28
47
33
40
n/a
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM
Fall Enrollees
Spring Continuing Students

RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM

The Respiratory Therapy Program has enrolled seventy-one students during the last five years, as follows:

Year	Number of Enrollees
1980	10
1979	23
1978	18
1977	10
1976	10

Gender

The Respiratory Therapy Program has demonstrated a remarkable degree of gender equity over the last five years, with an almost equal enrollment of males and females in the program. During this period of time, thirty-seven females, as opposed to thirty-four males, have enrolled.

Age Distribution

The Respiratory Therapy Program seems to attract participants of all ages, although the largest numbers of participants are between twenty-one and thirty years of age. Yet, significant numbers of participants are also very young (seventeen to twenty years of age) and more mature (forty-one and above).

Ages	Number
17-20	10
21-25	19
26-30	16
31-35	7
36-40	7
41-45	4
46+	2

Place of Residence

The Respiratory Therapy Program seems to draw the overwhelming majority of its participants--like the other Allied Health Programs--from the City of Compton. However, this program has also experienced some significant participation on the part of Lynwood residents.

Place of Residence	Number
Compton	38
Downey	1
Garden Grove	1
Inglewood	1
Los Angeles	8
Lynwood	9
Paramount	2
Redondo Beach	1

High Schools Attended

Participants in the Respiratory Therapy Program come from a wide variety of secondary school backgrounds, demonstrative of both California's and the District's significant in-migration and changing residential patterns. Significant numbers of enrollees are thus revealed to have matriculated in other states, overseas, and even in other regions of California. However, substantial numbers of program participants are also found to have received their secondary education in schools of the Compton Unified School District or other various nearby Districts.

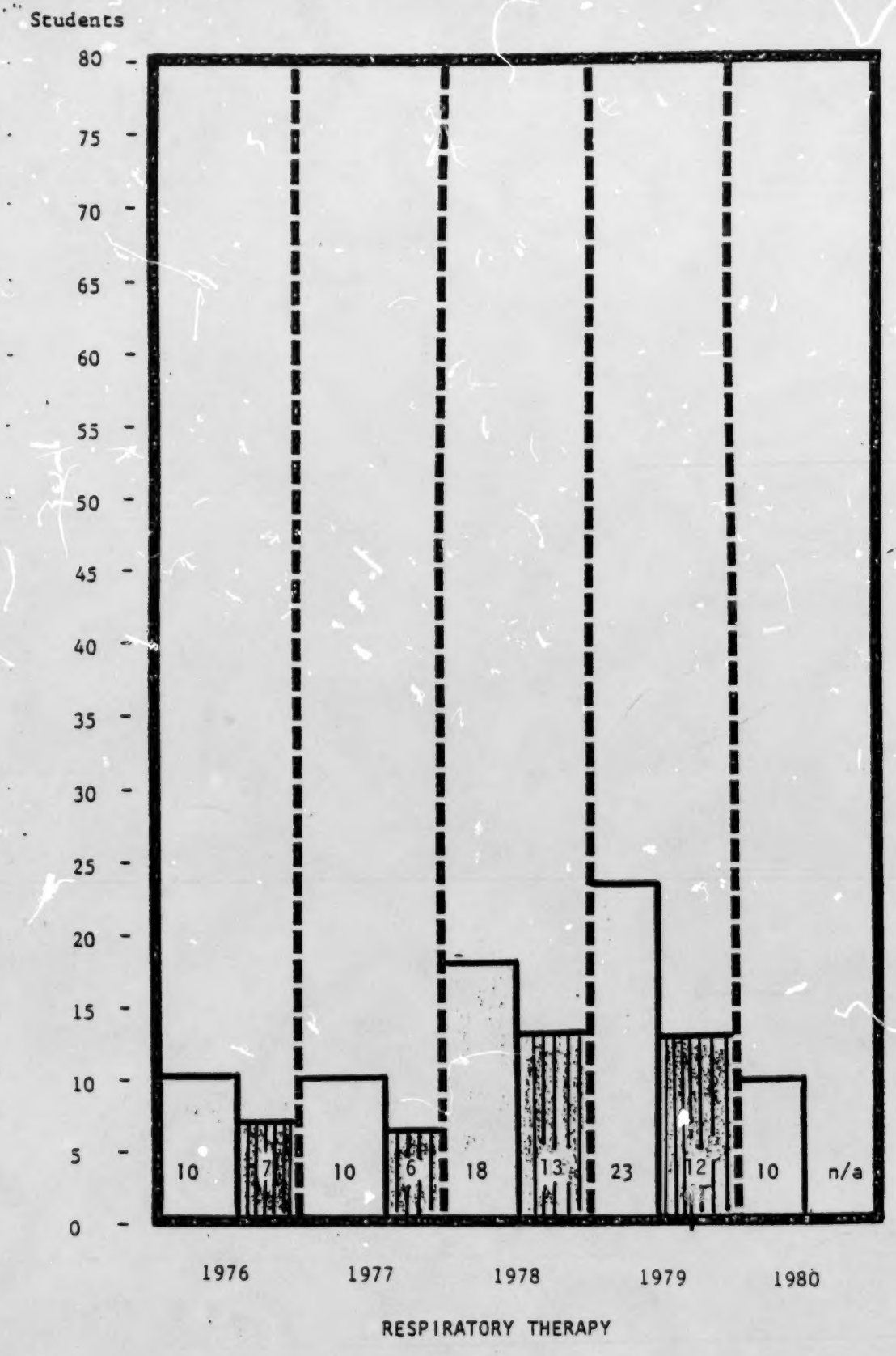
High Schools Attended	Numbers
Bell	1
Centennial	4
Compton	5
Dominguez	5
El Monte	1
Gardena	2
Los Angeles Unified	16
Lynwood	1
South Gate	1
Tubman	1
Other California	4
Out-of-State	12
Overseas	5

High School Graduates

The vast majority of Respiratory Therapy enrollees have graduated from high school. In fact, data available indicates that fifty-seven program participants were high school graduates, as opposed to only four who were not. Obviously, either the difficulty of the curriculum--of the perceived difficulty--does not seem to attract individuals without high school diplomas.

Attrition

As reflected by the graph on the following page, the Respiratory Therapy Program has experienced various degrees of attrition between the Fall and Spring semesters. The most serious problem in this regard occurred in 1979, when--as data indicates--only twelve out of twenty-three participants continued. Figures for other years do not reflect such drastic attrition. In 1978 thirteen out of eighteen students continued, while in 1977 six of ten continued, and in 1976 seven of ten. No explanation for the serious attrition of 1979 has been put forth in a satisfactory manner.


Students
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
10
7
10
6
18
13
23
12
10
n/a
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
RESPIRATORY THERAPY
Fall Enrollees
Spring Continuing Students

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The Radiological Technology Program has enrolled fifty-one students during the last five years, as follows:

Year	Number of Enrollees
1980	5
1979	9
1978	14
1977	7
1976	16

Gender

The Radiologic Technology Program is the only one of the Allied Health Division's programs which shows a greater number of males enrolled. To be precise, over the last five years twenty-seven males have enrolled in the program, as opposed to twenty-one females. All in all, gender distribution in the Rad Tech program seems quite equitable.

Age Distribution

The Radiologic Technology Program seems to attract participants of all ages, although almost half of all the participants are between twenty-one and thirty years of age.

Ages	Number
17-20	4
21-25	13
26-30	12
31-35	9
36-40	5
41-45	1
46+	0

Place of Residence

Like several other Allied Health Programs, the Radiologic Technology Program seems to have attracted almost all of its participants from the District. More than half of all participants have Compton residences, with representation from other localities lagging far behind.

Place of Residence	Number
Carson	4
Compton	33
Los Angeles	7
Lynwood	3
Inglewood	1

High Schools Attended

The majority of participants in the Radiologic Technology Program attended high schools in either the Compton or Los Angeles Unified School Districts. Many of the older participants attended schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District but currently reside in Compton, a reflection of the changing residential patterns in the City since the 1960's, with a significant in-migration. A significant number of participants also matriculated out-of-state, a reflection of the significant in-migration to California as a whole.

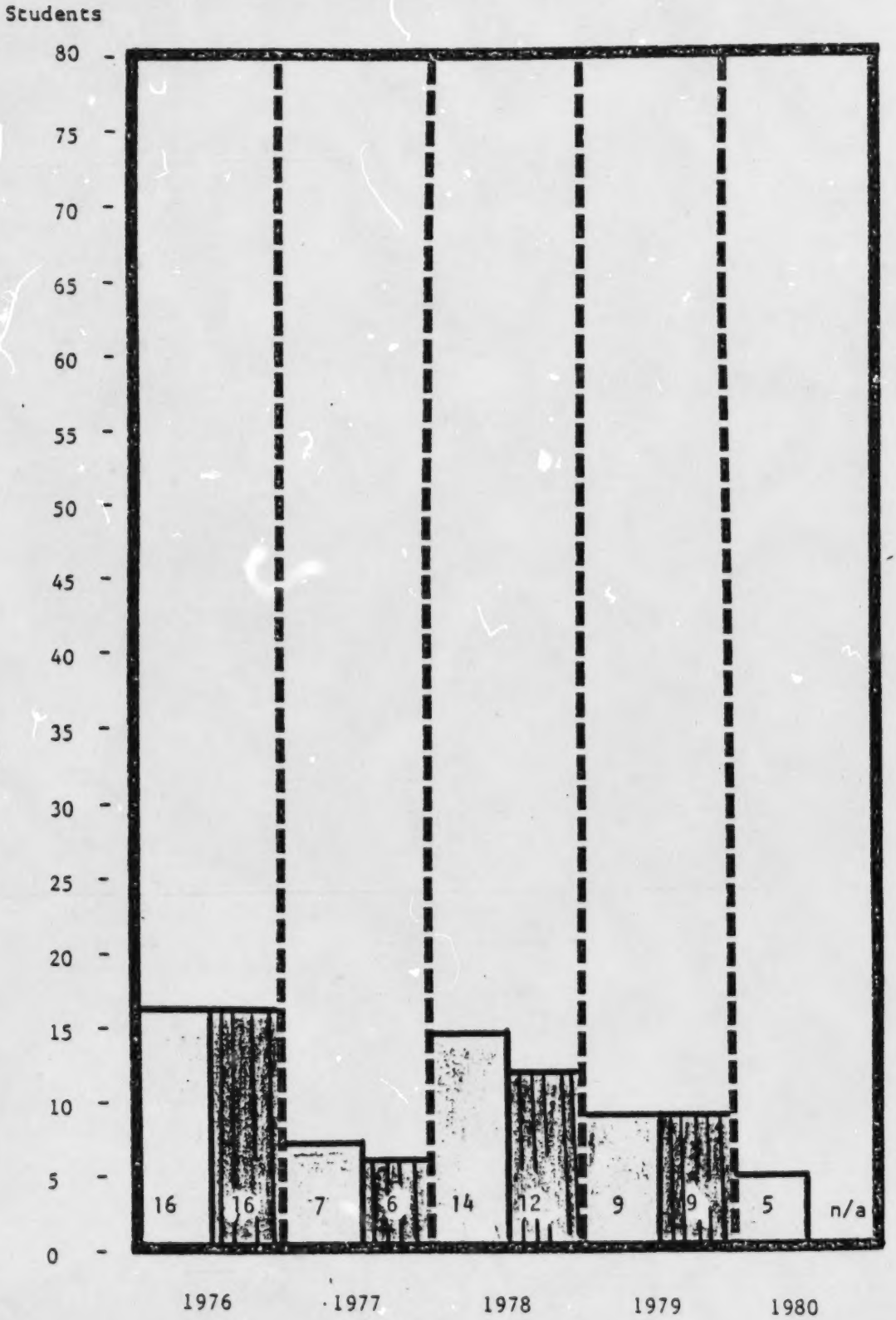
High Schools Attended	Number
Centennial	6
Compton	6
Los Angeles	20
Regina Caeli	1
Other California	6
Out of State	9

High School Graduates

Data available for participants in the Program indicates an overwhelming preponderance of high school graduates among enrollees. In fact, data indicates only one non-graduate while it indicates that at least forty-six of the program's participants did graduate. Obviously, either the difficulty of the curriculum -- or the perceived difficulty -- does not seem to attract individuals who have not graduated from secondary schools.

Attrition

As reflected in the graph on the following page, the Radiologic Technology Program has suffered little attrition between the Fall and Spring semesters over the last five years. In 1976 all sixteen participants continued, in 1977 all but one did so, in 1978 all but two did so and in 1979 all did so. Attrition would thus not seem to be a significant factor for new and recently enrolled participants in this program.



RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGY

● Fall Enrollees
● Spring Continuing Students

PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The Physician's Assistant Program, which was dropped from the curriculum after the 1976 year, enrolled ten students in its last year of existence. This figure can be compared to an enrollment of eighteen during the preceeding year.

Gender

One of the most evenly divided programs in the Division along gender lines, this program enrolled five males and five females during 1976.

Age Distribution

The ages of participants in this program were uniformly low, with the oldest participant being thirty-six and the youngest seventeen.

Ages	Number
17-20	1
21-25	4
26-30	3
31-35	1
36-40	1
41-45	0
46+	0

Place of Residence

Place of residence data for Physician's Assistant enrollees in 1976 is rather atypical in that it yields only one Compton, Paramount, or Lynwood residence. On the other hand, seven participants lived in Los Angeles, one as far away as San Fernando, and one in Torrance. This residence pattern seems to indicate that the program had considerable appeal for individuals residing outside of the District.

Place of Residence	Number
Compton	1
Los Angeles	7
Torrance	1
San Fernando	1

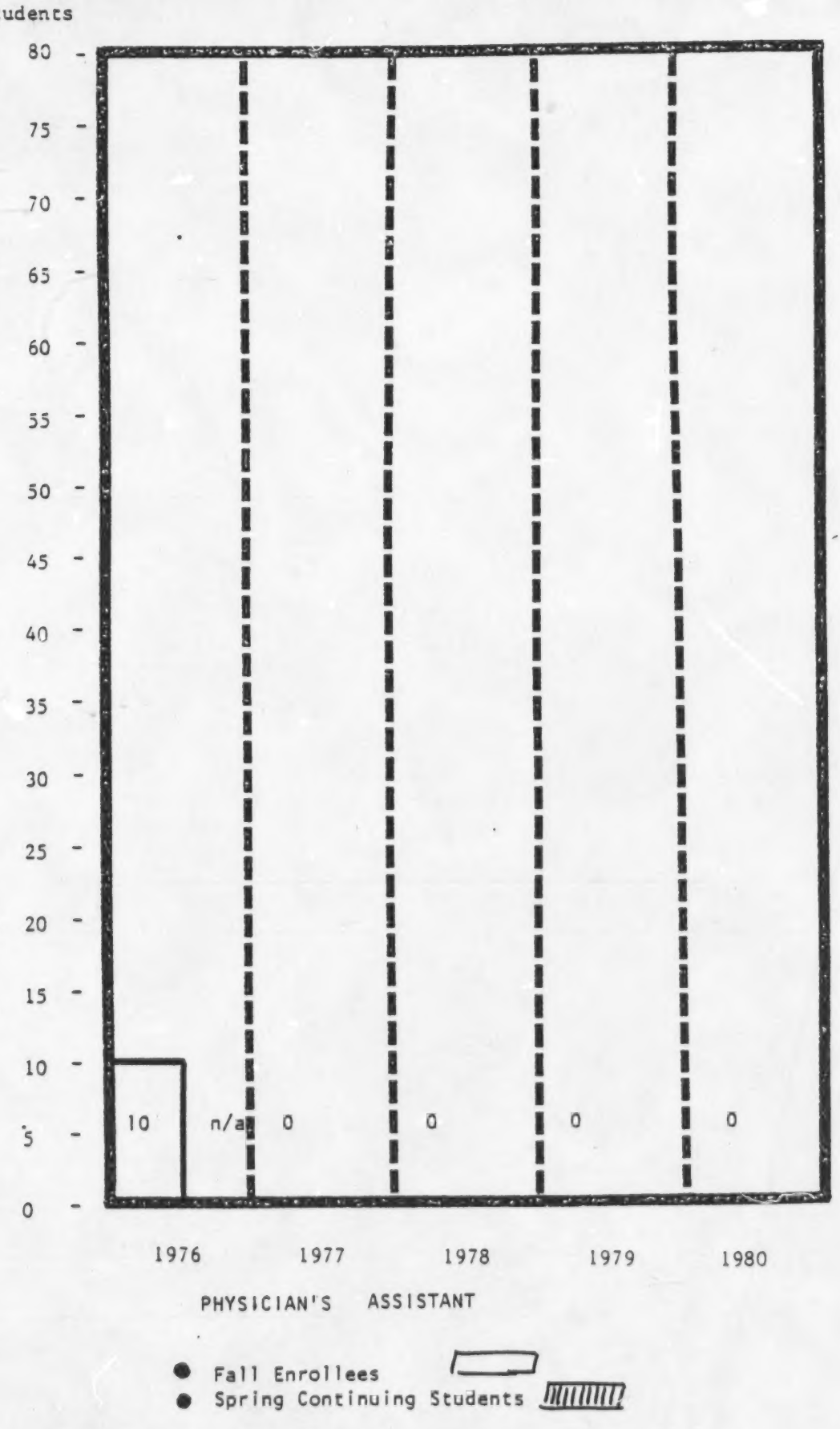
High Schools Attended

Interestingly, all ten enrollees in 1976 attended different schools, many in varied parts of the State and several outside of California.

High Schools Attended	Number
Compton	1
Edison	1
Merced	1
Monroe	1
Sylmar	1
Washington	1
Out of State	4

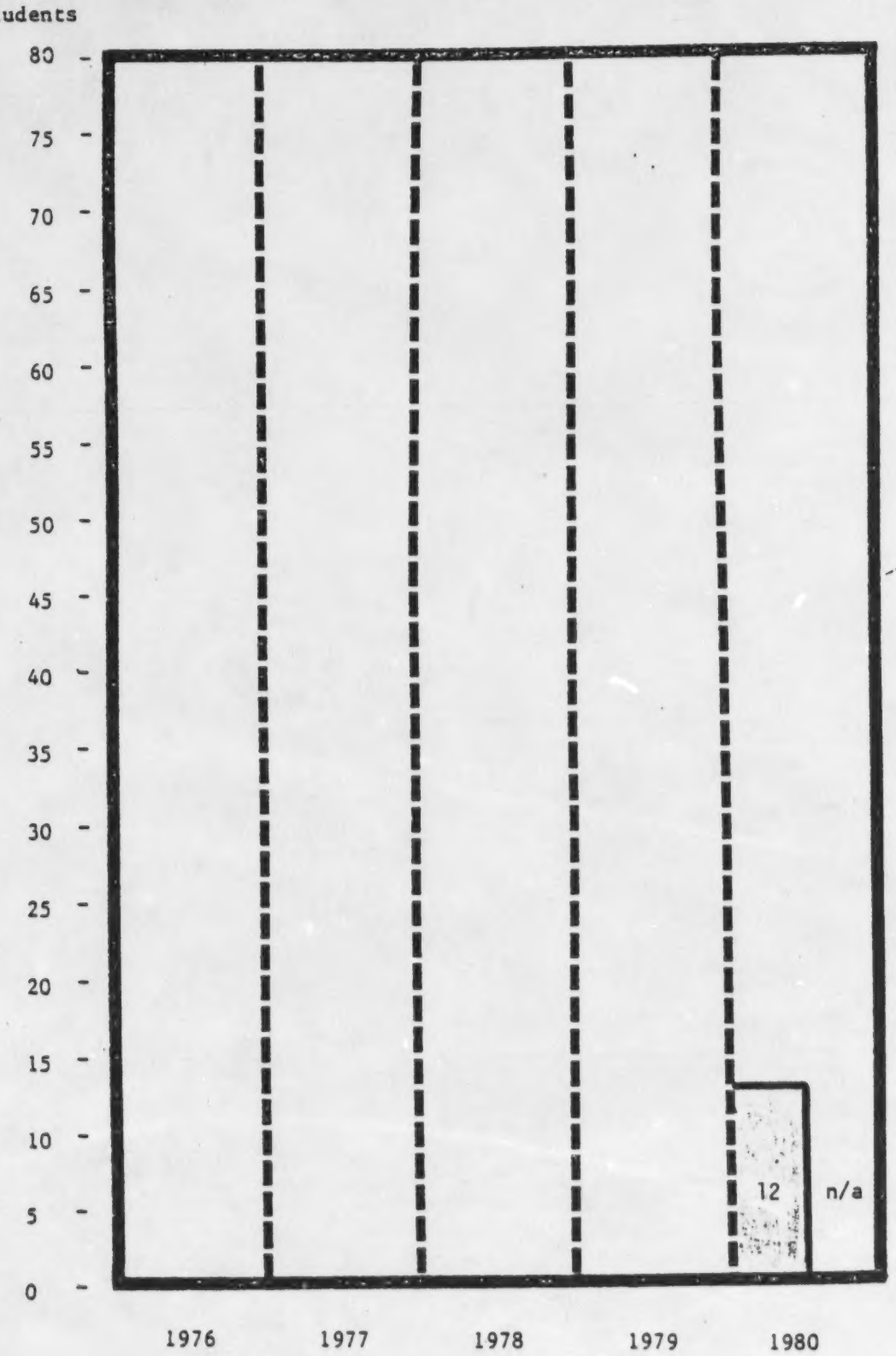
High School Graduates

All ten 1976 Physician's Assistant enrollees graduated from high school, the highest percentage (naturally 100%) of any group enrolled in the Allied Health Division during the last five years. Perhaps this high level of achievement on the part of participants is a reflection of the growing interest in and public perception of the profession of Physician Assistantship.


Students
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
10
n/a
0
0
0
0
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT
Fall Enrollees
Spring Continuing Students

NURSE'S AIDE PROGRAM

The Nurse's Aide Program was begun this year as a means by which to accomodate several American Indian agencies in the District who had individuals seeking to gain access into the health field at a beginning level. Conducted this year under the aegis of the Office of Continuing Education and Community Services, this program is intended to eventually be institutionalized as a regular part of the Allied Health curriculum. The program this year involved twelve participants, nine of whom were females and three of whom were males. Unfortunately, no additional data on these participants was available for inclusion in this study. Plans call for another program in the Nurse's Aide field to be instituted during the Spring semester.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ERIC CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES
96 POWELL LIBRARY BUILDING
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
AUG 14 1981